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THE SOUTHERN TRI-WEEKLY.

Vol. 1. Washington, Saturday, August 17, 1850. No. 24.

FROM TEXAS.—We have later advices from Texas. The cholera was prevailing on the Brazos river.
The Governor has issued orders for the immediate enrollment of troops. A meeting of volunteers will be held at this place on Saturday week, the 17th ult. Those wishing to report themselves ready for service will not fail to attend.
Public meetings have been held at Fort Bend in Leon county and in Tyler county, many other meetings have also been held, all approving of the course and sentiments of Governor Bell respecting the Santa Fe territory and recommending "prompt and efficient measures" for taking possession of the territory in question and quelling the insurrectionary movements of the inhabitants, &c.

THE SOUTHERN PRESS.

WASHINGTON CITY.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1850.

Where the Responsibility really rests.
It is recorded by the historian that the shock of an earthquake once rolled unheeded away while two armies contended—so rapid were they in their own strife. A similar phenomenon is witnessed here at this moment, in the course and conduct of the party presses and politicians, who, in the intensity of their interest in the Congressional strife, strangely forget that Congress is not the Country, and seem neither to heed the movements of the masses throughout the Southern States, sternly significant of coming perils. The exhibitions of popular feeling at the South, are indeed sufficient to awaken the interest of every true patriot, of every one who desires not to patch up a hollow peace, but to establish once more the reign of peace and permanent tranquility—to settle the existing difficulties, not fan the flame of the present dangerous discontents.

That such discontents do exist, and that they have found utterance in most impressive forms in popular assemblages and associations throughout the Southern, and particularly the Southwestern part of States, can neither be concealed nor denied—and it is therefore the part both of prudence and of patriotism to listen to those remonstrances, and devote the peaceable means of satisfying that public sentiment so strongly proclaimed.

Ours is not, and cannot be made a Government of coercion—and those who resort to such stupid threats to frighten States or citizens into silence, comprehend neither its character, nor that of our people. Its firmest foundation is in the affections of a people who prize it as the safeguard of their rights and liberties—who regard it as an object not of servile worship, but of rational respect, so long as it promotes these objects—but who never have and never will adopt the doctrine of "passive obedience," a doctrine repudiated even in Great Britain two centuries ago at the cost of a civil convulsion. The very use of epithets and insolent denunciations tends to increase, not to allay the excitement in the public mind; and were the purposes of this press such as its enemies and slanderers pretend, it would seek to provoke such scurrilities as the stipendiaries of the Northern press have poured out upon the heads of all who have warned the majority of the consequences of their acts.

Men conscientiously convinced of the justice of their complaints, and of the wrongs inflicted upon their section and themselves, by a course of legislation which strips them of their privileges and their property, are not apt to be softened down in their feelings by such fraternal answers to their indignant remonstrances, as the epithets of "traitors," "disunionists," "agitators," or by threats of coercion and the rope. The true disunionists are those who exasperate anger into implacable indignation; and who seek to intimidate, where they well know they must fail to convince. The greatest peril that can menace any country arises from the suppression of the voice of protest—from smothered indignation, smoldering in secret until it bursts forth a consuming flame.

There has been nothing stealthy, nothing secret in the action of these slandered "agitators"; they have almost exhausted the language of warning and of remonstrance; and if it has fallen on deaf and disregarding ears, the fault is not theirs. No sane man seeks disunion as a matter of first choice, but only suggests it as a last resort, when Southern rights and honor shall fall to command the security which the Constitution in its purity affords; and it is indeed a most stupid lack on the intelligence of the public, to assert that this press was established for such a purpose, or has sought to hasten such a catastrophe.

Its whole effort since its establishment, has been to secure to the South the simple acknowledgment of those rights, the withholding of which has alone caused the excitement there; and the hope was entertained, and has not yet been abandoned, that a full knowledge of Southern feeling and of Southern movements on this great question, would tend to force upon the minds of the Northern majority the conviction that if they really desired to preserve the Union, and with it fraternal concord, that it must be effected by adherence to the Constitution—not by overbearing arrogance, and threatened coercion. The temper and feeling of the Southern people at the present time is best shown in the record of the public meetings, which, as far as our space permitted, we have laid before the public; and in the obliteration of old party differences, and old party lines which they prove—for in Georgia and other Southern States, we find leading men acting in concert on this question, whose whole previous policy has been directly antagonistic.

Every Southern mail now comes freighted with such manifestations of popular sentiment; and the politicians who cannot see the dangers brewing, must indeed be smitten with judicial blindness, and he who does see them and fears to give the warning is the real traitor.

The solemn appeal of Senator Davis, of Mississippi, to the Senate, and the stern warning of Senator CLEMENS to the same body,

just before the consummation of the admission of California, speak the sentiments of the great masses of the Southern people irrespective of party, as events will show, if the majority will still persist in hurrying a powerful minority to the brink of resistance, against their expostulations and warnings.

As to the slanderous imputations on the motives, and denunciations on the course of this press, and those who concur in its views, they are scarcely worthy of contempt, coming from sources whose approval only would be libelous—from a class incapable of appreciating or understanding either.

But there is a more respectable class of opponents, from whom the South may yet expect something from a sense of returning justice, those old politicians who entertain a real reverence for the very name of the Union, and deem it sacrilege to calculate its value under any contingency—and the prejudices of these are worthy of respect if not of imitation. These will not permit themselves to look the real issue in the face, disguise the naked truth from their readers and themselves, and revel in the obstinate conviction that the rising deluge is but a passing shower.

The mere hungry horde of Swiss scribblers can do no mischief comparable to that which these produce, for the former carry no weight with them, while the latter do command public opinion to ascertain extent through long prescription.

If, then, their love of the Union is equal to their professions, let them open their eyes to the signs of the times, and looking out over the whole wide field, instead of contracting the limits of their vision to the walls of Congress, warn their countrymen in time, that the Union is in peril, and can be preserved only by hearing and heeding the call of the South for justice and equality.

Our paper of yesterday contained the response of Mr. GREGG to Mr. FOOTE, and to-day we publish the reply of Mr. CHESNUT to the same gentleman. We also publish to-day a letter of Mr. WALLACE against Mr. HOUSTON, of Texas.

Nobody regrets more than we do, these personal controversies—none have more desired to avoid them. But we consider it the right of every citizen to be heard in his own defence, and also to assail those who avail themselves of their official position to scatter their assaults over the land, through the official printing of public debates.

We regard as no better than a shallow artifice the attempt made by Messrs. FOOTE, HOUSTON, and the editor of the Union, to impute the present wide-spread excitement of the South at Federal usurpation to South Carolina—and to use the popularity of General JACKSON's name against the present disunion, as against Nullification formerly. In their eagerness to effect this they have made unwarrantable personal attacks, in which it seems they are not indulged with the impunity they expected.

No. 3 of the able papers of "RASHBOLPH OF ROANOKE" on the right of secession, will appear on Monday.

We do not see that Mr. CLAY, in his Northern tour, is kissing as heretofore the crowds of women that flock to see him. We suppose he is sick of omnibus-buzzing.

DECEIVING A MULE.—At one of our iron mines in Lehigh county, where the water is drawn out of the mine by mule power, one of the animals refuses to work unless he is ridden. To save a hand, they have mounted an artificial monkey upon him, and he works steadily, perfectly satisfied.—New York Globe.

The condition of the mule is very much that of the two great political parties these days.

For the Southern Press.
Letter from Col. Chesnut.

CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA.
GENTLEMEN:—I will ask a small space in your columns, that I may take a brief notice of Mr. Senator Foote, who has seen fit to indulge his taste before a senatorial audience, in a course of very rampant and scurrilous remarks, reported in the Union of the 4th of August; a copy of which a neighbor has just placed in my hands.

It is a very easy thing for any one who is sufficiently regardless of truth and decency, to deal in harsh words and vulgar epithets. I entertain too much respect for myself, as well as for those friends, whose good opinion I value, to become the imitator of Mr. Foote.

The court at Washington, it appears, has its jester, as well as the courts and princes in times past had; when chosen authorities were made merry by the bought wit or buffoonery of the collar men. Mr. Foote in his way seems "a fellow of infinite jest," and I doubt not that his harlequin performances will secure for him, in a certain quarter, a comfortable allowance, when a wronged and indignant State shall cast him from her bosom.

This senator from Mississippi has affected great indignation, at the slight mention I had occasion to make of him before a public meeting at Camden. This he makes the pretext for the outpouring of that sort of slang, which one would vainly hope and believe was unknown in the Senate, before he disgraced that body with his presence.

The gravamen of my offence seems to be that I had the temerity to link the time honored epithets and suggestive name of Foote to that of Mr. Benton. If the senator from Missouri, or his friends, had thought of all of remarks made by a person so inconsiderable as myself, I doubt not that both he and they would have been quite as wrathful as the little senator from Mississippi, at the association in which he is found. My attention was attracted to the senator, not for any wisdom he uttered, but because he was the mover of the Committee of Thirteen—because he was an eternal chatter and actor of scenes in the Senate—because he had recently made himself very busy in conjunction with his unexpected ally, in black-balling citizens of the South, by imputing to them "treason, stratagem and spoils"—because I perceived that the lion roar, which he indulged in the early part of the session, de die in diem, as a Southern flag-bearer, had dwindled down into the smallest possible squeak.

In alluding to some of the causes which placed the South in her present attitude of hopeless defence in Congress, I mentioned the defection of Senator Foote and others from the Southern phalanx. And did he not desert his Southern friends and allies in the hottest of the fight? Did he not desert them when with an eager haste, impelled by a ridiculous vanity, he became the assailant of Mr. Calhoun at the reading of his last speech in the Senate? That was a political movement; for up to that time the friends of the South in the Senate presented an almost unbroken front. They stood clearly on the same ground. This movement made under the absurd idea that he would be held responsible for the philosophical opinions expressed by Mr. Calhoun, and which it is clear he (Mr. Foote) did not understand, produced evidently a disastrous effect. Mr. Foote would be a leader without any of the requisite qualities. He is excellent in his place. I know of no one who can better ladder and wrong the greater men of the Senate by an incessant and daring tempest of fust and fury. He is great to draw the fire of the larger guns out of the right direction. Serves admirably, as the lat on the ramrod, held out by the hunter to delude the Indian, who, when he fires, has the mortification to find that he has wasted his powder on a stick, and perhaps hit something which only looked as if the head of a man might be in it. Far be it from us to disparage the senator. He is good in his place—very good—but for General Foote to assume the leadership of a great party in the country and before the Senate, would be like pitching General Tom Thumb, at the head of the American army, into the long boots and cocked hat of Winfield Scott. Did he not leave those same friends and allies when he became the blind and rabid advocate of the bill of surrender, which proposed to give all to the North, and to take all in dispute from the South, under the delusive name of Compromise? But from recent indications it would seem that his position is well understood by the good people of Mississippi. The senator informs us that he has vicariously suffered for the South, monstrous flagellations by the Abolitionists; and that he has endured this as retribution for fiercely assailing each and every one of them whom he has encountered—but has he not since been appointed from Northern vessels? Sugar plums have followed the birch from the same hands. He is horrified at the idea of resistance to the unconstitutional acts of the Government, which interpreted by him is treason. His Whig leader pitched this tune, and he sings the chorus in the long metre of Jackson's proclamation. How long has it been since he was regarded as lightning daily in the Senate the loud fire of rebellion—threatening it as unavoidable without change of affairs? On the 6th of March 1850, when he was travelling at Mr. Calhoun's last speech, what occurred? Mr. Calhoun. "But things now stand, I appeal to the senator from Mississippi, if he thinks that the South can remain in the Union on terms of equality?"

Mr. Foote. "We cannot, unless the question be settled on any condition whatsoever." He settled, and honorably settled in less than ten days time.

Has it been settled? Are not things worse than they were? Can we, however, remain in the Union on terms of equality? If he who thinks we cannot, be a traitor, then Mr. Senator, you were one on the 6th of March 1850. When, and what new lights have broken in on you?

But it appears that the senator, while reading a report of my speech, which he has honored with so many complimentary phrases, was greatly distressed to think that he had never heard of the precise name of him, whom Mr. Foote endeavored to render as absurd as himself. Well, in this, I have the advantage of the senator. I have heard of him—before now—and have known him, at least in his public character, since he has been honored by the State of Mississippi. Perhaps it would be well for Mr. Foote if he could be tutored with his obscurity. He is in no such danger. He has a wide notoriety. He has been too long the horn-blower to the several drivers of the late omnibus, not to have led the whole country to inquire and learn who made all that noise. Surely it would be needless now to inquire who the noisy senator is—this very peculiar and ludicrous specimen of the genus homo. I believe no naturalist has written about him, but M. Voltaire alludes to the singular cross between the monkey and the tiger.

From his own account, Fauquier county, Virginia, has the honor of being his birth-place. I have great reverence for Virginia; and it is possible that Senators Mason, Hunter, and Foote, are of the same maternity? But such things do sometimes happen. I remember, at the time of the famous pistol scene in the Senate, when the redoubtable senator (I believe a General, too, certainly a great strategist) was advancing, by a parallel movement, on his adversary, I heard his mutiny snarl discussed; and, judging from the evidence furnished by his vocabulary, it was concluded, that wherever he was born, he must have been reared from "an alms-basket of refuse words."

I think the senator may well calculate on his fame; for if he should fail to reach a remote posterity, through the rickety contrivance of his dignified and unimpaired omnibus, he will no doubt find his way through the history of those brawls by which he has so much graced and elevated the character of the Senate of the Union.

I have observed that the condescending person, who has given me a senatorial notoriety, is sometimes called General Foote. I shall not question his military excellence. The greater it be, the more I shall hope, that in case men's souls are to be tried, the enemy (who must be in common to Mississippi and Carolina) may not have that tower of strength. I am sure, however, that nobody will be hurt, even on the tierred field, if battles are to be fought by Committees of Thirteen, or enemies to be met by marching in parallel lines. Experience has recently illustrated both propositions, though the latter rests severely on a mathematical principle.

And now, gentlemen, you will allow me, for your information as well as on my own account, to say that the people of South Carolina are not disunionists, in any proper sense of the term. They are willing to peril all for the Constitution, and to stand by the Union under it. Nay, sir, for myself, and I believe it is the sentiment of my countrymen, I am willing to sacrifice much of everything, save honor, to have the distracting questions that disturb the country settled with permanent safety and honor to the South. But we regard some things as worse than disunion. We may have high and difficult duties to perform. We must pass away; but, should it not, then we must also, that every man, throughout the en-

tire South is ready, without flinching, to discharge those duties.

Most respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES CHESNUT, JR.

To the Editors of the Southern Press.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 15, 1850.

On the 14th instant, I was informed that on the previous day, the Hon. Sam Houston, a senator from the State of Texas, introduced my name in debate in the Senate, in connection with that of Mr. Calhoun, for the purpose of creating the impression that the convention held at Jackson, Mississippi, in October last, and the Nashville Convention which followed, were gotten up by an influence exterior to the State of Mississippi, and that Mr. Calhoun and myself, as his agents, had been the means by which that extraneous influence had been brought to bear upon the public mind in that State.

Upon receipt of this information, I addressed a note to that senator, which was delivered to him by Senator Butler, of South Carolina, of which the following is a copy.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 14, 1850.

Sir: I am this morning informed, that you introduced my name in the Senate yesterday, in connection with that of Mr. Calhoun, with the apparent purpose of creating the impression, that I attended the convention at Jackson, Mississippi, in October last, as an agent of Mr. Calhoun, for the purpose of creating the impression that a convention of the Southern States.

An explicit contradiction of this groundless charge, was extensively published in the month of May or last, under my proper signature, in many Southern papers, including the National Intelligencer of this city.

I have to express my surprise, that you should think proper, in your official character as a senator, to revive a groundless rumor, after it had been thus explicitly contradicted.

But as you have thought proper to do so, I have to request, that you will, upon the receipt of this note, furnish me with a written statement of what you did say upon the subject, in your speech, in your place in the Senate, and in your own papers, as well as to the memory of Mr. Calhoun, make such response as the nature of the case may seem to demand.

Waiting your only reply, I have the honor to be your obedient servant.
D. WALLACE.

Hon. SAM HOUSTON, Washington, D. C.

To the above note, I soon after received the following "SENATE CHAMBER, 14th August, 1850."

Sir: I have just received your note of this morning, by the Hon. Mr. Butler. In reply, I can assure you, that I did not use your name, nor the name of Mr. Calhoun, in my speech, in your place in the Senate, and in your own papers, as well as to the memory of Mr. Calhoun, make such response as the nature of the case may seem to demand.

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"Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi. It did not arise."

"Mr. HOUSTON. Was it not received pending the convention?"

"Mr. HOUSTON. I understand not."

"Mr. HOUSTON. I understand it was received by Colonel Tarpley, the gentleman to whom it was addressed, at the convention, and there shown by him. It was a singular coincidence, and he told me it was very civilly treated, and that it had happened to be passing down the river, should have visited the convention, should have been invited to appear and be seated in the assembly, should have remained there during the deliberations, and should have been present at the deliberations were concluded, and then have departed. Now all I say, is that this looks suspicious. I do not say that there is anything in it. It would, however, have led my mind to have something to do with the suggestions according to which this convention was assembled, and that by some appropriate arrangements the honorable citizen of South Carolina was there at the time. It would seem that he would have much to do with the deliberations of the convention."

"Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi. All suspicious ground is, and what led him to Mississippi at that time, can easily be removed. He is now a member of the House of Representatives, and he can consult him at any day."

The senator in his own reply to mine is altogether too evasive. I did not use your name, nor the name of Mr. Calhoun, nor the name of any gentleman with disrespect in the debate of yesterday."

I am not by a long way to know to fame, like the senator from Texas. I have not the notoriety to be acquired by assuming the costume and bearing of an Indian chief, the insignia of a governor of a State, the president of a gallant Republic, or the chief of a nation, and to make the name of South Texas, I have been content in my humble sphere, to receive such marks of distinction only, as those with whom I have been associated have thought proper to confer upon me. I have to inquire, however, that there are few beyond the limits of his acquaintance who are more intimately acquainted with his history than I am. It is certainly the privilege of all, to be familiar with the lives of the great, even in their own country. Those acquainted with the characteristic doings, and cunning evasions of the senator, I could not be surprised at the marked attempt at evasion, the labored and disingenuous effort to avoid the true issue, which is so manifestly made, and which he did not name Mr. Calhoun, or myself, but he used other means not less palpable, to make known to the Senate the persons to whom he alluded. He seeks to accomplish by insinuations and innuendoes, what he cannot do by direct statement. He should be fixed upon his unfounded statement. He retreats behind the screen, and stabs without seeing to do it, with the adroitness of a professional assassin, that he may avoid the consequences of his own condemnation. He is true to his office. In this the senator is true to his instincts. He resorts to the subterfuge of the calumniator, "who is willing to wound, yet afraid to strike," and fixes a blot upon reputation, while he avoids the consequences of the offense.

The senator does not act without a motive. He could not have been ignorant of the fact, that the state slanders which, like the witch of Endor, he was calling up from the tomb where I had buried him, had been done by me in the public journals of the country over my own signature. This was not enough to wound the senator from his besetting sin of prevarication, when he had a design to evade the issue, and to avoid the public certainty, that to deprive him of the privilege of distorting facts, and concealing the truth, would be like the sharing of Sampson's lion, and the destruction of his strength. He would not surrender the right arm of his strength which he wields so dexterously, by yielding the privilege to other hands, to his malignant feelings, of giving credit to his personal ambition, without a struggle, and rather than give up this privilege, the senator may even be induced to undergo some risk, at least upon a question of veracity.

House, the senator, after consideration, although he could not but be aware, that the allegations he uttered were false, and that he published to the world that which he was not to withhold them, was to be the story of the day, then made in his own mind, and he said, "under the name of a private light authority," would have been exposed to his public eye, in which, in the same indignity, he would have supposed he was willing, not surprising, that he should have been so much mortified, and too great for the senator to bear. He was engaged in his wicked lying, and endeavored to make falsehood triumph over truth, and to make his own name, and the name of his State, as his own; and he was so grey; and it is no more than what he has done, that he still persisted in his efforts, notwithstanding his declarations were so often nullified to the counter, as unmitigated fabrications of giving credit to his malignant feelings, of giving credit to his personal ambition, without a struggle, and rather than give up this privilege, the senator may even be induced to undergo some risk, at least upon a question of veracity.

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that there was a wide difference between the two. This difference was, that the one soared aloft in the broad light of day, and gazed steadily upon the sun, while the other shrank behind the gloom of darkness, and disputed with the reptiles with which it broods, the right to batten on garbage. The senator can be at no loss to determine the place assigned him, in the background of the scene, and the picture which he has painted.

I have said that the senator does not act without a motive. I may be able to afford the public a key to the motive which has prompted the senator to assail Mr. Calhoun, and South Carolina, with unmitigated malignity for the last quarter of a century. I will, for a moment, Messrs. Editors, change the venue from you to the senator himself, for the purpose of propounding to him a few direct and plain interrogatories, and hope he will favor the public with a distinct answer to each.

I ask you, sir, did or did not Mr. Madison soon after the battle of the "Horse Shoe," appoint you to the office of sub-Indian Agent, for one of the Southern tribes, and Mr. Calhoun under him, as Secretary of War?

And did, or did not Mr. Calhoun cause you to be sent to the office of sub-Indian Agent, for malfeasance in office? Mark the word, sir, I say malfeasance, not deeming it altogether in good taste to use a term with which all are familiar, who are acquainted with the titles of the criminal pleadings. You answer, "I do not know."

These interrogatories, without resorting to your usual prevarication? The public will be gratified, doubtless, to hear your response.

If the question be answered in the affirmative, or in the negative, the public will be no longer at a loss to discover the source of that hypocritical pretense of patriotism, under cover of which, you have for the last twenty-five years, given vent to your spleen against the South, and your personal animosity against the senator from Texas, I have been content in my humble sphere, to receive such marks of distinction only, as those with whom I have been associated have thought proper to confer upon me. I have to inquire, however, that there are few beyond the limits of his acquaintance who are more intimately acquainted with his history than I am. It is certainly the privilege of all, to be familiar with the lives of the great, even in their own country. Those acquainted with the characteristic doings, and cunning evasions of the senator, I could not be surprised at the marked attempt at evasion, the labored and disingenuous effort to avoid the true issue, which is so manifestly made, and which he did not name Mr. Calhoun, or myself, but he used other means not less palpable, to make known to the Senate the persons to whom he alluded. He seeks to accomplish by insinuations and innuendoes, what he cannot do by direct statement. He should be fixed upon his unfounded statement. He retreats behind the screen, and stabs without seeing to do it, with the adroitness of a professional assassin, that he may avoid the consequences of his own condemnation. He is true to his office. In this the senator is true to his instincts. He resorts to the subterfuge of the calumniator, "who is willing to wound, yet afraid to strike," and fixes a blot upon reputation, while he avoids the consequences of the offense.

The senator does not act without a motive. He could not have been ignorant of the fact, that the state slanders which, like the witch of Endor, he was calling up from the tomb where I had buried him, had been done by me in the public journals of the country over my own signature. This was not enough to wound the senator from his besetting sin of prevarication, when he had a design to evade the issue, and to avoid the public certainty, that to deprive him of the privilege of distorting facts, and concealing the truth, would be like the sharing of Sampson's lion, and the destruction of his strength. He would not surrender the right arm of his strength which he wields so dexterously, by yielding the privilege to other hands, to his malignant feelings, of giving credit to his personal ambition, without a struggle, and rather than give up this privilege, the senator may even be induced to undergo some risk, at least upon a question of veracity.

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